Consecration Service

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St. Mary's Church

Hamilton Village

Philadelphia

Saturday, May 31, 1890

Anthem.

Unfold ye portals everlasting, with welcome to receive him ascending on high.

Behold the King of glory! He mounts up through the sky,

Back to the heavenly mansions hasting. Unfold, for lo, the King comes nigh.

But who is he the King of glory? He who Death overcame, the LORD in battle mighty.

But who is he the King of glory? Of hosts he is the LORD; of angels and of powers; the King of glory is the King of the Saints.

Blessed be thy Name, O LORD God, for that it hath pleased thee to have thy habitation among the sons of men, and to dwell in the midst of the assembly of the saints upon the earth; bless, we beseech thee, the religious performance of this day, and grant that in this place now set apart to thy service, thy holy Name may be worshipped in truth and purity through all generations; through Jesus Christ our LORD. *Amen.*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our LORD: And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN.

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For all the Saints, who from their labour rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confess'd,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be for ever bless'd. Alleluia.

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, the Light of light. Alleluia.

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the Saints who nobly fought of old,
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia.

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia.

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia.

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes the rest;
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the bless'd. Alleluia.

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The Saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way. Alleluia.

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia.

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O with due reverence let us all
To God's abode repair;
And prostrate at His footstool fall,
To breathe our humble prayer.

Arise, O Lord, and now possess
Thy constant place of rest;
Be that not only with Thy ark,
But with thy presence bless'd.

Clothe Thou Thy priests with righteousness,
Make Thou Thy saints rejoice;
And, for Thy servant David's sake,
Hear Thy Anointed's voice.

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O 'twas a joyful sound to hear
Our tribes devoutly say,
Up, Israel! to the temple haste,
And keep your festal day.

At Salem's courts we must appear,
With our assembled powers,
In strong and beauteous order ranged,
Like her united towers.

O ever pray for Salem's peace;
For they shall prosp'rous be,
Thou holy city of our God,
Who bear true love to thee.

May peace within thy sacred walls
A constant guest be found;
With plenty and prosperity
Thy palaces be crown'd.

For my dear brethren's sake, and friends
No less than brethren dear,
I'll pray, May peace in Salem's towers
A constant guest appear.

But most of all I'll seek thy good,
And ever wish thee well,
For Sion and the temple's sake,
Where God vouchsafes to dwell.

THE earth is the LORD'S, and all that therein is; the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.

2. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and prepared it upon the floods.

3. Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall rise up in his holy place?

4. Even he that hath clean hands and a pure heart; and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbour.

5. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6. This is the generation of them that seek him; even of them that seek thy face, O Jacob.

7. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

8. Who is the King of glory? It is the LORD strong and mighty, even the LORD mighty in battle.

9. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

10. Who is the King of glory? Even the LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.

DEARLY beloved in the LORD; forasmuch as devout and holy men, as well under the Law as under the Gospel, moved either by the express command of God, or by the secret inspiration of the blessed Spirit, and acting agreeably to their own reason and sense of the natural decency of things, have erected houses for the public worship of God, and separated them from all unhallowed, worldly, and common uses, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for his glorious Majesty, and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in his service; which pious works have been approved of and graciously accepted by our heavenly Father: Let us not doubt but that he will also favourably approve our godly purpose of setting apart this place in solemn manner, for the performance of the several offices of religious worship, and let us faithfully and devoutly beg his blessing on this our undertaking.

O ETERNAL GOD, mighty in power, and of majesty incomprehensible, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands; and who yet hast been graciously pleased to promise thy especial presence, wherever two or three of thy faithful servants shall assemble in thy Name, to offer up their praises and supplications unto thee; Vouchsafe, O LORD, to be present with us, who are here gathered together with all humility and readiness of heart, to consecrate this place to the honour of thy great Name; separating it henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary, and common uses; and dedicating it to thy service, for reading thy holy Word, for celebrating thy holy Sacraments, for offering to thy glorious Majesty the sacrifices of prayer and thanksgiving, for blessing thy people in thy Name, and for the performance of all other holy offices: accept, O LORD, this service at our hands, and bless it with such success as may tend most to thy glory, and the furtherance of our happiness both temporal and spiritual; through Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

REGARD, O LORD, the supplications of thy servants, and grant that whosoever shall be dedicated to thee in this house by Baptism, may be sanctified by the Holy Ghost, delivered from thy wrath and eternal death, and received as a living member of Christ's Church, and may ever remain in the number of thy faithful children. *Amen.*

GRANT, O LORD, that they who at this place shall in their own persons renew the promises and vows of their Baptism, and be confirmed by the Bishop, may receive such a measure of thy Holy Spirit, that they may be enabled faithfully to fulfil the same, and grow in grace unto their lives' end. *Amen.*

GRANT, O LORD, that whosoever shall receive in this place the blessed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, may come to that holy ordinance with faith, charity, and true repentance; and being filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, may, to their great and endless comfort, obtain remission of their sins, and all other benefits of his passion. *Amen.*

GRANT, O LORD, that by thy holy Word which shall be read and preached in this place, and by thy Holy Spirit grafting it inwardly in the heart, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfil the same. *Amen.*

GRANT, O LORD, that whosoever shall be joined together in this place in the holy estate of Matrimony, may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may remain in perfect love together unto their lives' end. *Amen.*

GRANT, we beseech thee, blessed LORD, that whosoever shall draw near to thee in this place, to give thee thanks for the benefits which they have received at thy hands, to set forth thy most worthy praise, to confess their sins unto thee, and to ask such things as are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as for the soul, may do it with such steadiness of faith, and with such seriousness, affection, and devotion of mind, that thou mayest accept their bounden duty and service, and vouchsafe to give whatever in thy infinite wisdom thou shall see to be most expedient for them: All which we beg for Jesus Christ's sake, our most blessed LORD and Saviour. *Amen.*

BLESSED be thy Name, O LORD, that it hath pleased thee to put it into the hearts of thy servants to appropriate and devote this house to thy honour and worship; and grant that all who shall enjoy the benefit of this pious work, may show forth their thankfulness, by making a right use of it, to the glory of thy blessed Name; through Jesus Christ our LORD. *Amen.*

Proper Psalms for the Day.

O HOW amiable are thy dwellings, thou LORD of hosts!

2. My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

3. Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest, where she may lay her young; even thy altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

4. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; they will be alway praising thee.

5. Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are thy ways.

6. Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well; and the pools are filled with water.

7. They will go from strength to strength, and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.

8. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; hearken, O God of Jacob.

9. Behold, O God our defender, and look upon the face of thine Anointed.

10. For one day in thy courts is better than a thousand.

11. I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

12. For the LORD God is a light and defence; the LORD will give grace and worship; and no good thing shall he withhold from them that live a godly life.

13. O LORD God of hosts, blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

I WAS glad when they said unto me, We will go into the house of the LORD.

2. Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem.

3. Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity in itself.

4. For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the LORD, to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the LORD.

5. For there is the seat of judgment, even the seat of the house of David.

6. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee.

7. Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.

8. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will wish thee prosperity.

9. Yea, because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do thee good.

LORD remember David, and all his trouble:

2. How he sware unto the LORD, and vowed a vow unto the Almighty God of Jacob;

3. I will not come within the tabernacle of mine house, nor climb up into my bed;

4. I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor mine eye-lids to slumber; neither the temples of my head to take any rest;

5. Until I find out a place for the temple of the LORD; an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.

6. Lo, we heard of the same at Ephrata, and found it in the wood.

7. We will go into his tabernacle, and fall low on our knees before his footstool.

8. Arise, O LORD, into thy resting-place; thou, and the ark of thy strength.

9. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints sing with joyfulness.

10. For thy servant David's sake, turn not away the presence of thine Anointed.

11. The LORD hath make a faithful oath unto David, and he shall not shrink from it:

12. Of the fruit of thy body shall I set upon thy seat.

13. If thy children will keep my covenant, and my testimonies that I shall learn them; their children also shall sit upon thy seat for evermore.

14. For the LORD hath chosen Sion to be an habitation for himself; he hath longed for her.

15. This shall be my rest forever: here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein.

16. I will bless her victuals with increase, and will satisfy her poor with bread.

17. I will deck her priests with health, and her saints shall rejoice and sing.

18. There shall I make the horn of David to flourish: I have ordained a lantern for mine Anointed.

19. As for his enemies, I shall clothe them with shame; but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

INTROIT HYMN

[131]

Come gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With light and comfort from above;
Be Thou our Guardian, Thou our Guide,
O'er every thought and step preside.

The light of truth to us display,
And make us know and choose Thy way;
Plant holy fear in every heart,
That we from Thee may ne'er depart.

Lead us to Christ, the living way,
Nor let us from His precepts stray;
Lead us to holiness, the road
That we must take to dwell with God.

Lead us to heaven, that we may share
Fullness of joy forever there:
Lead us to God, our final rest,
To be with Him forever blest.

Collect for the Day.

O most glorious LORD, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto thee anything belonging unto us; yet we beseech thee, in thy great goodness, graciously to accept the Dedication of this place to thy service, and to prosper this our undertaking; receive the prayers and intercessions of all those thy servants who shall call upon thee in this house; and give them grace to prepare their hearts to serve thee with reverence and godly fear; affect them with an awful apprehension of thy Divine Majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness; that so approaching thy sanctuary with lowliness and devotion, and coming before thee with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified, they may always perform a service acceptable to thee; through Jesus Christ our LORD. *Amen.*

The Epistle.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The Gospel.

And the Jews' Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: and when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; and said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

The Nicene Creed.

Psalm.

[C]

O BE joyful in the LORD, all ye lands: serve the LORD with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

2. Be ye sure that the LORD he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

3. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

4. For the LORD is gracious, his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Sermon.

Offertory.